

HB 2621 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature has made a commitment
4 to support multiple strategies to improve teaching and learning of
5 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in Washington's
6 public schools. In recent years, Washington has adopted new
7 technology, mathematics, and science learning standards; initiated
8 funding for middle schools to provide a career and technical program in
9 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics at the same rate as
10 a high school operating a similar program; provided professional
11 development for mathematics and science teachers; created a scholarship
12 program to encourage students to enter mathematics and science degree
13 programs; supported career and technical education in high-demand
14 fields; and authorized alternative ways for teachers to earn
15 certification in the mathematics and science fields.

16 (2) At the local level, school districts and their communities are
17 also finding new ways to improve teaching and learning of science,
18 technology, engineering, and mathematics. Some districts have combined
19 several best practices into promising learning models for students.
20 For example, Aviation high school in the Highline school district
21 offers a small, highly personalized learning community that is focused
22 on interdisciplinary immersion in science, technology, engineering, and
23 mathematics using a hands-on, project-based curriculum. Delta high
24 school in the Tri-Cities is a collaboration among three school
25 districts, a skill center, two institutions of higher education, a
26 community foundation, and local business leaders. The science and math
27 institute at Point Defiance in Tacoma offers students field-based
28 applied learning using the natural, historical, and community resources
29 of a large metropolitan park. These schools draw students from across

1 regions who are seeking an exciting, rigorous, and nontraditional
2 learning experience. Other schools and communities across the state
3 are seeking to replicate these innovative learning models.

4 (3) The legislature intends to support continued expansion of the
5 type of innovation and creativity displayed by Aviation, Delta, and the
6 science and math institute by designating so-called "lighthouse" high
7 schools to serve as resources and examples of best practices in
8 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the
12 superintendent of public instruction shall designate up to three middle
13 schools and up to three high schools to serve as resources and examples
14 of how to combine the following best practices:

15 (a) A small, highly personalized learning community;

16 (b) An interdisciplinary curriculum with a strong focus on science,
17 technology, engineering, and mathematics delivered through a project-
18 based instructional approach; and

19 (c) Active partnerships with businesses and the local community to
20 connect learning beyond the classroom.

21 (2) The designated middle and high schools shall serve as
22 lighthouse programs and provide technical assistance and advice to
23 other middle and high schools and communities in the initial stages of
24 creating an alternative learning environment focused on science,
25 technology, engineering, and mathematics. The designated middle and
26 high schools must have proven experience and be recognized as model
27 programs.

28 (3) In addition, the office of the superintendent of public
29 instruction shall work with the designated middle and high schools to
30 publicize the models of best practices in science, technology,
31 engineering, and mathematics instruction used by the designated middle
32 and high schools and shall encourage other middle and high schools and
33 communities to work with the designated middle and high schools to
34 replicate similar models."

1 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "schools;" strike the
2 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter
3 28A.630 RCW; and creating a new section."

EFFECT: Adds intent language recognizing the Legislature's
initiation of funding for middle school STEM programs.

Requires OSPI to designate up to three middle schools as
"lighthouse" middle schools in addition to the up to three high schools
to serve as resources and examples of best practices in STEM.

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